THE AUTUMN'S WORK

The Common Cause

OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

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[The National Union does not hold itself responsible for opinions expressed in signed articles.]

Notes and News.

Children and War.

The suffering of children is the most intolerable thing in war. It is difficult to think of the things that have happened to children in the invaded countries and to remain sane. Our own little ones, though safer than the children of Belgium and Serbia and Poland have not escaped unscathed. In England the shortage of certain foods necessary to childhood has as yet touched them but slightly: if grown-up people are unselfish, it may not in the end cause them serious harm. In Dublin, where the high prices are not balanced by work for all and high wages, many children, we are told, are suffering severely from the results of under-feeding, so severe as to be almost starvation. On the other hand, Irish children have not suffered as our London children have done from the horrors of air-raids. In every raid we hear of babies and young children being killed or terribly injured; we do not always hear of all those who escape with life and limb but are frightened into illness by what they see and hear; but most of us know individual cases in which this has happened, and we know, unfortunately, that as time goes on we shall hear of many more.

In this connection it is deeply interesting to learn that that great benefactor of childhood Madame Montessori, is encouraging the initiation of a "White Cross League" to go to the assistance of the depressed and terrified children of war. We understand that Madame Montessori offers to give her services gratuitously to help train the workers who will have to have some knowledge of nervous diseases, dietetics for infants and children, isolation, special psychology, domestic science, and the Montessori method. The plan is to send out working groups to France, Belgium, Serbia, Roumania, Russia, and other European countries, each consisting of four to six persons—head, secretary, two teachers, and two outside workers. Each group would go to a place where refugees are gathered, and would not only work itself, but train the women of the place to help. Doctor Montessori has already formed a committee in America, and it is hoped that one may shortly be formed in London.

Married Women as Teachers.

A question left untouched by Mr. Fisher's Education Bill is the unfortunate position of married women in the teaching profession. At present, local authorities have the final decision as to whether married women shall be allowed to teach or not, and in a large number of cases the decision is in the negative. Yet in dealing with children, the experience of a married woman should surely be invaluable. The result of excluding married women from the profession is twofold—girls are unwilling to train for work which must necessarily terminate in the event of their marriage, and interested teachers are unwilling to marry and so bring their activities to a sudden end. The nation needs both teachers and children. It is a serious thing if the increase of the one must result in the decrease of the other.

Reconstruction and the Land.

One after-the-war aspect of women's land work is not often discussed. Problems of wages and conditions have been scrutinised from every point of view; but what of the problem of the girl's affection for the farm? After the war, what is to become of the woman who has made a real success of farming, and who finds open-air life much more healthy and congenial than her town occupation of pre-war days?

The nation wants its land kept under cultivation, its women kept healthy, its unemployment kept down. Very well, then—let the woman who is on the land and likes it, stay there.

But can she? Not unless she has a wage on which she can live and save. By the provisions of the Corn Production Bill, an Agricultural Wages Board is to be established, which will fix the minimum wage of work on the land. Invariably a minimum wage tends to become a standard wage. The minimum wage fixed by the Agricultural Wages Board may become the average wage of the British farm labourer. Just now women working on the land are willing to work for little because their country needs them. But after the war expediency will determine their career. The clock will strike twelve: the mask must come off: the Agricultural Wages Board will stand revealed as the Destiny which has determined the fate of the Farm.

Women and the Printing Trade.

Much comment has recently been raised by the attitude of the printers' trade unions, which still refuse to admit women, though the shortage of skilled men is very severe.

The Typographical Association now explains that it does not object to women provided they have served the full apprenticeship of seven years. Seven years is a long time, especially in present conditions. If the Typographical Society is not to be accused of want of public spirit and a tyrannous attitude towards women, it must bring very good evidence that it is really impossible to learn the trade thoroughly in a shorter time than that which Jacob served for Leah.

We make no apology for publishing two articles on the adventures of the Millicent Fawcett Units this week. Their safe return is subject of deep interest to many of our readers.

This number also includes the first of some signed articles on the "Endowment of Maternity," a subject about which members of the N.U.W.S.S. hold many varying views. The Union does not, of course, make itself responsible for the opinions expressed in this or any other signed article.

We also continue our series of articles on new professions for women.

Dental Mechanics as a Profession for Women.

Although the profession of dentistry has for some years been open to women, and several were already practising before the war, women, oddly enough, have only recently begun to train as dental mechanics. Yet this is work in every way suited to them. It is highly skilled, requiring great deftness and accuracy, but does not need a great amount of physical strength, and well-educated women, properly trained, should be able to find a considerable scope in the work.

Even before the war the number of really skilled mechanics was scarcely equal to the demand, and now that so many have been called up there is a considerable shortage. Dentists are offering as much as £5 a week for skilled mechanics, without being able to obtain one, and many are themselves training women to do the work. In order to meet this shortage, the Borough Polytechnic, at the suggestion of the Women's Service Bureau (London Society for Women's Suffrage), opened training classes for women last December, and twenty-two pupils joined in the course of the first six months. Some of these dropped out, but several, after completing a six months' course have started work at £1 or 25s. a week. Others are continuing their training, with a view to making themselves really proficient, while two or three are doing part-time work with a dentist, and taking the second part of their course as well.

It is certainly advisable that women intending to become dental mechanics should undergo a thorough training, so that they may keep up the standard of pay. The prospects of the profession are good, if those newly entering will stand together; but if a number of girls start work after a short training at a low rate of pay, it may be difficult for others, more highly qualified, to obtain the salary they ought to command, and the men who return to their old work after the war may find themselves obliged to accept a lower rate than before, or may find themselves ousted by cheap labour. The work is really skilled, and it will be a great pity if the women who come into it lower the standard either of work or of pay.

The student has first to learn how to mix and use plaster of Paris, to manipulate the sheets of specially prepared pink wax, and to take impressions in plaster and in a particular kind of composition, and from these impressions to cast plaster models. Then there is the making of the little bands by which some dentures are held in place; these are usually made of gold, but the student uses the alloy still known as German silver. A pattern is first cut out in lead foil and is placed on the sheet of German silver which is cut to match. This strip of metal has then to be trimmed and bent and filed till it fits the tooth exactly; a tag has then to be cut and bent to fit the part of the gum over which it has to lie, and tag and band are soldered together. A beginner will often spend a couple of hours making one band; whereas after full training, this can be done in twenty minutes.

When the student becomes fairly expert in these preliminaries she begins to "set up" teeth. A sheet of wax is slightly softened over a Bunsen burner and is pressed down on to the plaster model. The teeth are then set into this wax, being held in place by the addition of small strips of wax. Each tooth has its own place; those in the right side differ from those in the left, and the upper differ from the lower; the teeth have to be set up many times before the student has learnt them all; then there is the difficulty of articulating the upper to the lower. When the case is set up, the wax must be trimmed and smoothed very carefully—a tedious process which occupies several hours of the beginner's time.

If the case is to be vulcanised it is placed in a small bronze "flask" with plaster holding it in position and covering certain parts of it. When that is set the surface is rubbed with vaseline or some kindred substance, the flask is filled up with plaster, and the lid is put on and pressed tightly down. Then, when the plaster is hard, the flask is opened, the wax carefully washed out with boiling water, and the whole is dried in an oven. A certain quantity of specially prepared rubber is cut into strips and heated on a hot-water plate, and is then packed into the space left by the wax; the flask is steamed for about half-an-hour to soften the rubber still further, it is once more put under the press, clamped, and placed in a little water in the vulcaniser where it is subjected to great heat (328 deg. Fahr.) for seventy-five minutes, the soft rubber becoming by this means hard vulcanite. It is then cooled and opened, the case is cleaned, the superfluous vulcanite is filed away, and it is sandpapered till quite smooth, and finally polished by a brush worked by electric power. The success of the case depends on the care and patience and dexterity of the worker. If wax is left on the teeth, if the case is wrongly placed in the plaster, if the plaster is badly mixed, or the rubber badly packed, or the filing and polishing roughly done, the case will be a failure.

With only six months' training a woman can at present obtain paid work, but she has by no means mastered the whole of her trade and cannot hope to become more than an assistant, doing the simple and less interesting jobs in the dentist's workshop.

The second six months' training is devoted to metal work, the striking-up of gold plates, the casting of gold crowns and the combination of gold and vulcanite.

The fees at the Polytechnic are very low; only five guineas for the six months' course, and some 30s. to £2 for the necessary instruments. There is a private training school also in London, where the fees are higher, and some dentists are training pupils in their own workshops. Many welcome the idea of having educated women to do their mechanical work, and think that they are likely to prove more satisfactory than the type of apprentice they have largely obtained hitherto,—boys who start by running errands and doing odd jobs in the workshops and pick up the trade by degrees without any very thorough or systematic training.

Not only is it important to keep up the rate of pay, but in arranging to work for a dentist there should be a definite agreement as to hours. The nominal hours are usually 9.30 to 5, but mechanics are often kept at work for a much longer time without any extra pay. Organisation among members of the profession should make it easy to insist upon better conditions, and is all the more necessary because a dentist's workshop does not come under the Factory and Workshops Act, so that an unscrupulous man might put his mechanics to work in a quite unsuitable place.

There might be some sort of test before anyone is allowed to take paid work. Some among the pupils are anxious to form a society for guarding the interests of the profession, and if this is done the occupation of dental mechanic may be numbered among those which have a really promising future for women.

E. J. COOKE.

[We publish from week to week articles on new professions for women, or on professions in which there have lately been fresh developments of women's work. An article on "Draughtsmanship for Women" appeared in our issue of September 14th.

Enquiries as to training in these professions and in all other skilled occupations open to women should be made at THE WOMEN'S SERVICE BUREAU (LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE), 58, Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1. Interview from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. every weekday except Saturday. On Saturday by appointment.]

A "COMMON CAUSE" HUT IN FRANCE.

Who will help us to provide a hut for women workers who are going out to France?

The winter will soon be here. Already the days are drawing in, and women and girls working in a foreign country will need a place for rest, recreation, and cheerful society even more than those who are busy at home.

If our hut is to be ready by the winter, to shelter girls from the wet and cold, and provide them with refreshment at a moderate price, it is necessary to begin to build it at once. But so far we have only collected about £172.

Another £328 is needed for the building of the hut, and in addition to this £200 for its equipment, and another £200 to keep it going for a year.

Please send your donation TO-DAY.

Will some of our Societies kindly make a collection? They helped us so generously with our Coventry Hut, which is bringing rest and happiness to hundreds of girls now.

Why not hold a drawing-room meeting?

Some of the drawing-room meetings organised by our Societies in aid of the Coventry Hut were most successful, and we feel sure that equal interest could be aroused in our new venture.

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations:—

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Further donations should be sent to The Editor, THE COMMON CAUSE, 14, Great Smith Street, S.W. 1.

The Return of the Millicent Fawcett Units.

In the flood of details that has poured upon us in the last week, it requires an effort to keep to the main current of events, and to give a clear consecutive account of the adventures of our *personnel* in Galicia. Our two hospitals—the infectious one at Zaleshchiki (thirty miles north of Czernovitz), and the surgical one at Podgaitza (twelve miles south-west of Tarnopol)—were 100 miles apart—viz., fourteen hours' drive—and had therefore to act independently of one another. So unexpected was the retreat that Dr. Atkinson, who was in any case coming to England, as were several of the nurses, started off peacefully a few days before, making a *détour* to Zaleshchiki, and arrived at Tarnopol Station (*en route* for Kieff) to find the bombardment in full blast. Bombs were raining down, the end coaches of a train were shattered, the dead and dying were heaped together. The two English nurses with her set to work, and though apparently without material, managed in some way, mysterious even to her, to produce bandages and dress wounds and care for the men. Then, after some hours, the last train for Kieff started, and they had to tear themselves away from this inferno with hands still covered with blood, since there was no water with which to wash them. This was on the night of Friday, July 19th. Their anxiety for the Podgaitza Unit was intense, and with good reason. M. Egoroff, our Zemstvo administrator, had gone from Podgaitza to Tarnopol to see Dr. Atkinson on her way through, and was also quite unexpectedly caught in the bombardment, and though he spent many hours in the station, the pandemonium was such that they never met. He then tried to make his way back to his Unit, found that the Germans were already between them and Tarnopol, and stumbled into the first line of Russian trenches, where the scenes he witnessed reacted terribly on his over-wrought mind. Finally, he got back to his unit, to find that the Russian transport, which had worked rapidly and admirably in evacuating the patients from the hospital, failed suddenly and completely at the end, and when asked how the staff was to retreat, the Russian authorities replied, "On their feet." Luckily, our armoured-car contingent, who had been using our hospital for their wounded, kept a fatherly eye upon them. Commander Scott, their head surgeon, came in on the Sunday, the 22nd, with a wounded man: our matron heard him say, "No more operations at all now, Sister." She had been through the Serbian retreat, and she said to him, "I know what that means." "Yes," he replied, "you had better quietly get all your luggage packed, and hold yourselves in readiness to go at any time, but meanwhile carry on as usual. I should like to see your transport for myself." She took him out to the place where the carts and horses had been, and gasped—it was completely deserted!

Meanwhile, those of the staff who were not on duty were packing, and several even presented the astonishing spectacle of complete preparedness, even to the point of umbrellas and gloves. Late in the evening a tall, thin figure, with a coal-black face, lurched in, swaying with exhaustion, gave a vague, tired smile of greeting and relief, and murmured that they would all start away at dawn. He was followed by another British officer in much the same state, and with great difficulty they were induced to lie down on the sisters' beds and take some much-needed rest. Presently, Egoroff came in, in a terribly excited state, saying that the Russian Commandant had told him that the English must be off *at once;* otherwise they would be blown up in an explosion which would shortly take place. The message may or may not have been true: already it was obvious that his mental balance was shaken, but the matron wisely, though with great reluctance, went to wake the tired Commandant, and he decided that the risk of waiting for daylight was too great, so the poor English chauffeurs, also looking like coal-heavers, were at once roused, and they set out at 2 a.m. in pitch darkness (the nurses still in their caps and aprons) for the armoured-car camp. Their own car and lorry had no lights, but an armoured-car behind shed a huge blaze ahead, though at intervals they were cut off and plunged in darkness by the demoralised crowds who struggled between and on to the cars, and blocked their way, making rapid progress impossible. At the camp they found everyone in every stage of dressing, and heard expressions of relief at their safety and friendly greetings on every side; and soon after, in daylight by now, they set out again for Proskuroff, a big railway junction well within the Russian frontiers. The British officers would take no risk for them, and with a self-sacrifice for which we can never be grateful enough, refused to set them down at any nearer smaller station to take their chance of trains on. They got safely to Kieff, where Dr. Atkinson and the other nurses welcomed them with intense relief.

The whole journey was saddened by the tragedy of Egoroff's rapidly increasing madness. A delicate, high-strung man, who had worked beyond his strength during the whole war, he had scarcely slept for seven weeks, and the pain in his head and become intolerable, while paroxysms of violence alternated with child-like helplessness. He is now in a home at Kieff, in a dying state. None of us will ever forget his unfailing love and self-sacrifice for his English "Unit," of which he was inordinately proud, nor the perennial charm and gaiety, combined with real gifts of organisation and all-round tact and helpfulness, which endeared him to Russians and English alike.

The retreat of the Zaleshchiki unit was luckily free from any harrowing episodes, but it also was a narrow escape, and involved great discomfort. They appear to have been entirely without news, either from papers or (stranger still in the war zone) from rumours, and their Russian administrator, M. Braun, laughed at all apprehensions. On Saturday, the 21st, one of our nurses, who was in a hurry to get to England for personal reasons, had been sent off from Podgaitza by Dr. May, who, though not suspecting such immediate urgency, gave her a message to the Zaleshchiki staff advising them to clear out. They evacuated their milder cases, and packed their luggage; then, a day or two later, the rest of their patients, packed the hospital equipment, and awaited orders from the Zemstvo, which never reached them. Finally, a Russian military hospital, the officers of which had been sitting in a train at the station with their equipment for at least twenty-four hours, consented to share their (third-class) coach with them, and M. Braun came and told them to go within half-an-hour without luggage. The matron firmly had her luggage put on the cart! The others followed suit, and heaven alone knows how they and their effects were all stowed in. This was on the Wednesday evening (July 25th). They waited all night in the train, as there were forty trains in front of them which all had to get off first, and then crawled away. The train was bound for Czernovitz, but had to be diverted to Novocelsky instead, as the former town was already in the enemy's hands. For sixteen days they sat in that train, literally "cheek by jowl" with each other and the Russian officers. They eked out their scanty provisions as best they could; there was no water in the lavatory, and the stations they passed through were packed with an indescribable rabble. In the first five days they covered rather more than thirty miles! They were afraid to change into an ordinary train for Kieff, as it would have involved the risk of parting with their luggage. When finally they reached Kieff, it was to find that the other unit had been frantic with anxiety as to their fate (the enemy actually entered Zaleshchiki the day after they left, and rumour goes that our hospital was completely wrecked), and that the armoured-cars, the Zemstvo, the Red Cross, the British Embassy, and the Russian military authorities, were all using all possible machinery to discover their whereabouts! The one bright spot was the saving of their effects, including the hospital equipment and drugs, which are worth their weight in gold in Russia now. They left these with another Zemstvo military hospital, which was being established in a town they passed through. The rest of the journey home is mainly a history of the spending of vast sums of money on very scanty food!

We need hardly emphasise the pleasure and relief we feel in welcoming our whole *personnel* home (with the exception of one intrepid Scotswoman, who insisted on remaining to work in a Zemstvo hospital), and in congratulating them on the yeoman service they have done for our Allies.

W. H. Moberly.

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Reviews.

WOMAN AND THE CHURCH. By the Rev. B. H. Streeter and Edith Picton Turbervill. (Published by T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd. 3s. 6d.)

In this interesting and timely little book Canon Streeter and Miss Picton Turbervill make an earnest plea that the whole question of women's place in the Church should be thought out afresh. Both writers are members of the Anglican Church, and "write primarily in view of the circumstances and problems of that communion. They feel, however, that the principles which are valid in their application to the Church of England cannot but apply *mutatis mutandis* to all branches of the Church of Christ."

Both writers hold that the differentiation between the sexes in matters which concern the soul is opposed in its very essence to the teaching of Christ. "The most original and the most essential contribution of Christianity to European morals," says Canon Streeter in the opening paragraph of his chapter on "The Church and the Women's Movement," "is the contention that every human personality, whether Jew or Gentile, bond or free, male or female, is of infinite value to God, and therefore has an infinite claim to respect and consideration from man. No society, therefore, can in any way correspond to the Christian ideal, or can expect to be a prolific nursery of the Christian virtues in which the legitimate rights of personality in any of its members are not first of all carefully ascertained, and when ascertained, respected."

Miss Picton Turbervill urges that: "There is no suggestion in any words uttered by Christ that women were to be excluded from the highest ministry. To women was given the first great Easter message of new life and power; given, let it be noted, that they might pass it on and instruct the other disciples. On the first great Easter Day we cannot fail to note that women too were in the upper room where all the disciples were gathered together for fear of the Jews, when the great commission was given, and that, therefore, those wondrous words that followed . . . were spoken to believing women as well as to men. We are so familiar with the story of the women of Samaria that we lose its significance; yet how revolutionary it is. For according to Rabbinical teaching, 'it were better to burn the precepts of the law than teach them to a woman.' Yet it is to a woman that He reveals the great truth of his Messiahship."

The authors also make interesting comments on the passages in St. Paul's teaching, which have given rise to so much controversy. They show how he has been, if not mistranslated, at least differently translated in different places, so that the exact significance of his words about women is open to question, while the only thing that is quite certain is that he did not exclude all women from ministration and prophesying.

Both writers believe that the Church has suffered in life and power by the emphasis laid on a masculine ideal. "Either man or woman alone presents a one-sided, imperfect Christianity, lacking just that power which Christianity in its fullness alone can give. Therefore it is that we are bold enough to say, put aside prejudice, tradition, and all that is not life, and cry out that woman, *not* because she craves for a wider sphere, but for the sake of what the Church is losing of genius, power, and inspiration by her exclusion, because the Church needs her, needs her for the completeness of the Church's message to a hungry world, must take her stand with man within the ministry of the Church of Christ."

In the last section of the book, Canon Streeter deals with the practical steps which he thinks should be taken to give effect to the ministry of women. "At once, licences should be given to properly qualified women to preach and exercise the other functions entrusted to lay readers. Such licences should be given to women on *exactly* the same terms and conditions on which they are at present given to men. The Ministry of Women should also be employed among women to impart to the young the information about sex matters which is so vitally necessary for their future well-being. Also "to give help and advice to persons who are troubled with moral, spiritual, and intellectual difficulties," and to teach the real meaning of religion, help to build up character, and stimulate and guide that sense of vocation which is the mainspring of the Christian life.

The question of the admission of women to the priesthood, Canon Streeter thinks should be postponed until the Church has grown more democratic, and the public more enlightened, and until the Church of England has been able to define more clearly what she means by priesthood.

On the other matters he believes that the Bishops might and should act at once. "There is abroad in the Church a spirit of revival and enterprise. The young men and the young women see a world perishing for the lack of that which Christianity alone can give, and they see Christianity paralysed, and the moral power of the Church made bankrupt by disunity among the different bodies of Christians and by the maintenance of hampering and obsolete sex limits within the Church; and they are not content to stand by silent while the dead hand of an irrational and uncriticised tradition warns off advance along every road."

We believe that many readers of THE COMMON CAUSE will be interested in this book.

I. B. O'M.

A FATHER OF WOMEN, AND OTHER POEMS. By Alice Meynell. (Published by Burns & Oates, Ltd. 2s.)

Mrs. Meynell has given us some beautiful poems in her new work. Though far from being remote from the war, there is a certain cool starriness about her verse which is very refreshing just now. In "Summer in England in 1914" the contrast between horror and beauty is almost unbearable. This poem has been much quoted; we will therefore quote instead a verse of "A Thrush Before Dawn," which is very characteristic of the author, and which is all beauty, not beauty and horror mixed:—

"A voice peals in this end of night
A phrase of notes resembling stars,
Single and spiritual notes of light.
What call they at my window-bars?
The South, the past, the day to be,
An ancient infelicity."

But the whole of this poem and of the others should be read.

I. B. O'M.

ENGLISH DOMESTIC RELATIONS, 1487-1653. A Study of Matrimony and Family Life in Theory and in Practice as revealed by the Literature, Law, and History of that Period. By Chilton Latham Powell, Ph.D., Instructor in the John Hopkins University.

[Published by Columbia University Press. London Agent: Mr. Humphrey Milford. Oxford University Press. Price 6s. 6d. net.]

This investigation into the conditions of marriage and divorce in England during the Reformation and Puritan period is specially interesting and valuable just now, when so many people are thinking what those conditions ought to be. Doctor Powell has evidently made a wide study of original authorities, and has produced the result in an attractive, slim, green volume, which does not belie its promise of being readable and enlightening. His sympathies are with the Puritans, and he shows a bias against the Catholic Church which must be allowed for by the reader. This does not, however, make the information he gives less interesting. Historical students who do not share his bias, and who remember what the Church did for women in the Middle Ages, and the opportunities that were lost after the Reformation, will be able to consider whether the false asceticism that accompanied the monastic ideal was, on the whole, more harmful than the false asceticism of the Puritans. They will gain some additional knowledge of the Puritans themselves, and a good deal of concentrated information about social conditions in England during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Marriage was declared to be a Sacrament by the Council of Florence in 1439. Luther and Calvin both denied its Sacramental character, and many of the Continental reformers dealt with the questions of marriage and divorce in their writings. In England the Reformation was rather too closely connected with one Divorce, and for some time it was delicate and even dangerous to express opinions on the subject of marriage. Those who did so might easily find that they had said something which reflected on the conduct or legitimacy of the reigning Sovereign—not at all a safe thing to do under the Tudors. It was not till the period of the Rebellion and the Commonwealth that these matters could be freely discussed. Milton presented a treatise on the Doctrine and Discipline of Divorce to the Parliament of England in 1644. "When I remember," he wrote, "the little that our Saviour could prevail about this doctrine of charity against the crabbed textuists of his time, I make no wonder, but rest confident, that whoso prefers either matrimony or other ordinance before the good of men and the plain exigence of charity, let him profess Papist, or Protestant, or what he will, he is no better than a Pharisee, and understands not the Gospel." He advocated divorce not only for serious wrongs against the marriage state, but as a relief for "indisposition, unfitness, or contrariety of mind, arising in nature, unchangeable, hindering, and ever likely to hinder, the main benefits of conjugal society, which are happiness and peace."

Dr. Powell thinks that Milton and other Puritan writers clearly wished for equality for men and women before the law in the matter of divorce; but he admits that "Milton runs into inconsistencies on the subject of women's rights in divorce matters," and himself quotes a passage in the treatise which says that "the absolute and final hindering of divorce cannot belong to any civil or earthly power against the will of both parties, *or of the husband alone*." It would indeed be vain to try to persuade any student of Milton that he held enlightened views about the relation of the sexes! If the creator of the Eve of "Paradise Lost" was, as Dr. Powell asserts, "the most advanced thinker of his time" on this subject, the argument that the Puritans were enlightened on the question of equality between the sexes can hardly stand. The point on which he was most advanced—*i.e.*, his advocacy of divorce for incompatibility of temperament—seems to have been received with a storm of condemnation. In 1653, Cromwell appointed Justices of the Peace as Judges in matrimonial cases; but there is no evidence as to what were the established grounds on which these officials were to act. At the Restoration matters reverted to their original condition, and what was probably the least enlightened period of all began. In 1700, divorce by special Act of Parliament became possible to the wealthy. "Since then," says Doctor Powell, "England has muddled along in her usual way, and even the reforms of 1857, the first since Cromwell's time, left divorce affairs in a state that can hardly be thought satisfactory."

The remaining chapters of this fascinating book deal with family life including the position of women. They are illustrated by quotations from contemporary books of "domestic conduct," and from the drama and general literature of the period. Dr. Powell's style is more colloquial, not to say slangy, than would be possible to an English writer of equal learning, but we are not the less grateful to him for his delightful and instructive treatise, and for the evidence of his own just attitude towards the relations of the sexes.

I. B. O'M.

HEALTH AND THE STATE. By William A. Brend, M.A., M.D., B.Sc. (Constable & Co. 10s. 6d.)

Dr. Brend has written a thoroughly fresh, enlivening and stimulating work upon Public Health, all the more refreshing because it would be quite impossible for the honest reader to apply any of those adjectives to most of the literature of his subject. His main thesis is the urgent need for a complete re-organisation of all Public Health services. We expend enormous sums of money and vast efforts, with but little result. There is a want of co-ordination, and there are vast untouched spaces. Dr. Brend urges the immediate formation of a Ministry of Health, the most important function of which should be investigation rather than administration. He dwells upon the extreme inefficiency of our present methods. The sciences of preventive medicine are complex and our knowledge is still very imperfect. Parliament has no particular means of acquiring this knowledge, nor any recognised body of experts to consult. The result is that measures (such as the Insurance Act) are passed on the initiative of a Minister and with the consent of a Parliament both equally ignorant of the duties likely to arise and even the probable effects of such legislation. Moreover the efforts to obtain the necessary public support for any measure often lead to a wide popularisation of wholly incorrect doctrine. Dr. Brend hits right and left with considerable vigour at most of the ordinarily accepted views upon health questions. Public opinion believes in vaccination against small-pox, notification, isolation and disinfection, as appropriate methods

of guarding against such diseases as scarlet fever, diphtheria or tuberculosis. Investigators meanwhile are slowly working out the less obvious aspects of the question, the gradual acquiring of immunity, or perhaps, rather gradually increasing power of resistance to certain diseases such as scarlet fever, tuberculosis and syphilis. None of the popularly accepted views upon a subject specially interesting to women, infant and child mortality, escape attack. Notification of births, schools for mothers, health visiting, the various attempts to combat maternal ignorance—all these efforts, to which we usually ascribe the decline in our infant death rate are but lightly esteemed by Dr. Brend. "Under the term infant mortality, we are classing together two radically different types of deaths. . . . The first consists of developmental factors which vary but little from place to place and year to year, and class to class and are caused by fundamental influences which we do not fully understand and, apparently, cannot prevent. The second . . . most prevalent in crowded mining and industrial districts, and probably entirely preventable." That is, the second group of deaths are mainly due to smoke and dust, while the first are beyond control, and as it is to the prevention of deaths of the first group that most of the efforts—pre-natal clinics, schools for mothers, and infant consultations—are directed, we are largely, so Dr. Brend believes, wasting our energies. All this, and indeed the whole work, is full of interest. Every now and then the reader cannot avoid a suspicion that when statistics do not quite suit they are somewhat lightly treated (*e.g.*, p. 126), and that our efforts are not always as futile as Dr. Brend would have us believe. Nevertheless, his main views, so vigorously urged, are just those which need impressing upon the great mass of half-thinking people. We spend ourselves on palliatives instead of on preventives, or let our children live in overcrowded, dusty, foul towns, and then spend large sums of money on incomplete plans for medical inspection. "Organised society can abolish much of the misery which results from disease," but to do this, special knowledge, not half-truths, must be applied, and we must make up our minds to do away with half-measures, to clear our slums, to cease polluting the air with foul smoke and dust from refuse-carts, to cease adulterating our food and supplying our child population with filthy milk. There is a great deal to be done, and Dr. Brend's vigorous book should help us to accomplish some of it.

L. F.

Correspondence.

METHODS OF REFORMATION.

MADAM,—I am surprised that your correspondent Erie Evans should have fallen into the error of making a comparison between "sexual offences" and criminal ones. Surely no one will deny that prostitution is the result of unrestrained, uncontrolled exercise of the natural instinct implanted in both sexes for the reproduction of species.

No one wishes to minimise the social and moral offence, the degradation of prostitution less than myself; but anyone who has done any public or social work knows how easily in the case of girls the first downward step is taken, through ignorance and temptation, and once that step has been taken, how difficult to recover or take up a respectable position in life again. What man committing a sexual offence loses his position or situation which enables him to earn his bread? What woman keeps them? Result, no means of earning her livelihood except in this terrible way!

I believe it will be found that most women "on the streets" have been driven there through force of circumstances, loss of character, low wages, the want of a helping hand.

Surely we want to deal tenderly with these girls and women and help them to win back their self-respect and position in life, and if homes are found to be the best way of meeting the difficulty, let them be real homes, not the semi-prisons many of them now are—homes with opportunities of training and education. We need, I think, to take a broader, kinder view of "sexual offences," without in any way lowering the high moral standard for women.

As to the dangers resulting to both men and women from the misuse of these natural instincts, I won't enter into that as it is another side of the question. I only want to point out that, in my opinion, sexual offences ought not to be confused with crime. Indeed, I think I would remove all such cases from consideration in Police Courts, and form a Tribunal of Women to deal with them. This may come in time.

POOR LAW GUARDIAN.

MADAM,—In reply to Miss Rosamond Smith, may I again point out that if the trade of prostitution were unlawful, it would be possible to make the man as well as the woman liable. So long as the trade is lawful, the man cannot be touched, and the woman not for her trade, but for secondary offences arising therefrom.

2. The proposal to rely on proceeding against molestation is to put a premium on blackmail, and molestation is an offence about which it is particularly difficult to get direct evidence.

3. The proposal to rely on suppression of houses kept for immoral purposes must fail, so long as the trade is lawful, for the law cannot be put vigorously into action. It is felt by those whose duty it is to act that "the women must live somewhere," which is a perfectly natural and logical attitude so long as the trade is lawful and no provision is made for women found living in such a house.

4. It is not my experience that "voluntary residence in a home combined with practical training in a new trade has proved its efficiency," and I think the cause of failure is inherent in the voluntary system. Nothing impressed me so much when attempting rescue work, as the dangers resulting from mixing girls of different types in a house insufficiently staffed. Voluntary rescue homes have difficulty in obtaining adequate funds, and are therefore very liable to be insufficiently staffed. Further, each works independently and there is no co-ordination. It appears to me urgently necessary that girls seeking to leave the streets should not pass straight into a home; they bring with them the atmosphere and associations which are very disturbing to those who are trying to leave the life behind them, and girls of very different types are thrown in intimate contact, with the result, as a prostitute who had entered a home and returned to the street said to me, "I learnt more evil in the home than I ever learnt on the street."

I suggest there should be in every town a clearing house to which girls can enter voluntarily or be sent, if convicted of living by prostitution. This must be adequately staffed, and arranged so that girls will not be thrown in close contact without supervision, and where they shall be detained long enough only for the staff to get an idea of their character and aptitudes. From there they should as soon as possible be drafted to a training-school, different trades being the work of different schools, the permanently feeble-minded or inebriate kept distinct from the rest, as also those given to "unnatural vice." I am sure it is necessary to study the aptitudes of the individual more than is now possible in many rescue homes.

I see nothing inherent in the nature of things why the care of those who have become parasites should be left to voluntary workers any more than the care of those who have become lunatics. There was a time when the popular feeling against a lunatic was even more cruel than that against a prostitute nowadays, and their treatment had no element of healing in it. It was not, however, by doing away with compulsory detention that Pinel worked his great reform, but he "did away with corporal punishment and abuse, separated the insane from convicts . . . placed the unfortunates in special institutions under the charge of physicians, and classified patients according to their symptoms." I look to the time when we shall work a similar reform in our treatment of those "unfortunates" proved to be dependent on prostitution for their livelihood.—Yours faithfully,

ERIE EVANS.

"THE MASTER PROBLEM."

MADAM,—It is rather dangerous to reprimand a reviewer without having read the book that she has reviewed. It is even more so when one has not read the review aright. Mr. Marchant examines what the nations of the world are doing at present to suppress vice, commercialised and otherwise—if there be an otherwise. He states that nearly all the State legislatures make adultery a crime, and the majority penalise fornication As the pious reviewer, who reads from cover to cover, I repeated this interesting piece of information. Your correspondent says: "Adultery *is to be made* a crime, and fornication *is to be also penalised*." Author and reviewer mention a fact; your correspondent seems to assume that we, or one of us, advocates a policy. He then adds: "divorce is to be absolutely prohibited." I did not find this view in the "Master Problem" at all. I happen to be the author of a small book, published by Mr. Frank Palmer in 1912, "Divorce and Morality," in which I advocate greater freedom of divorce as an absolute necessity if the position of the women of the lower classes is to be improved. I want divorce cheapened, and extended. But, in order that it may not be hasty or ill-considered, it might be well if we followed the Norwegian plan of summoning the parties who claim divorce to a conference before a clergyman (or perhaps a judge, or two judges, a man and a woman) to state their grievances fully and frankly. If they persist, Norwegian law demands that the parties shall live separate for one year, and then appear again before the Conciliatory Court. Only then can the divorce be absolute; the conduct of both must be satisfactory during the year of probation. I entirely approve this method.

Your correspondent has jumped to a wrong conclusion. My objection to the Matrimonial Causes Act of 1857 is based on two reasons. First, it is an act by which only the rich have benefited. The Commission which sat on Divorce, 1910-1912, received evidence proving that divorce often costs between £600 and £700. "Delay of justice is injustice" is a wise dictum. I venture to add that expensive civil justice is injustice. The poor need inexpensive divorce; the cheapest figure at which it can be obtained now is about £40. My second objection to the Matrimonial Causes Act is its disgraceful inequality, which possibly your correspondent has not observed. An injured husband can rid himself of an unfaithful wife, but an injured wife cannot shake herself free of an unfaithful husband, unless cruelty or desertion can be proved also. Surely there has not often been a more insolent attack on the honour and dignity of women than this. The sanctity of the home is for me a meaningless expression so long as this infamous Act remains on the Statute Book. A Liberal Government passed it, but Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Newdigate, Lord Hutcheson, and others opposed it in both Houses of Parliament. One of them styled it "a disgraceful attack on the sex that men were bound to protect."

There are two obstacles, in my opinion, to the improvement of woman's position in marriage. The first is the grave ignorance among women of the working-classes as to what the conditions should be; in other words, they lack a correct theory. Of course, English law has helped them to make a wrong one, a theory that all people of respectable morals deplore, that self-control is only for one sex. The second obstacle is the failure to observe that divorce is always permissive. The parties concerned can forgive, and go on on the terms they choose to lay down. In some countries divorce is granted for incompatibility, but only when both parties are agreed to claim it. It has been observed that where divorce is relatively easy, married people usually behave better towards each other. There is less of that base attitude: "The prey is secured; anything will do now!"

C. S. BREMNER.

[*We understand that it has now become possible for persons earning not more than £3 a week to obtain comparatively cheap divorce, through the Poor Persons' Department of the High Court of Justice. Applicants are not required to pay fees, but only the Solicitor's out-of-pocket expenses and expenses incidental to witnesses. It is stated that if witnesses are not brought from a distance, the whole proceedings from beginning to end do not amount to more than £10, or in some cases £6.*

The very large number of applications (numbering, we believe, 14,000 in the first six months of this year) seem to show that cheaper divorce is grievously needed.—EDITOR.]

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The Autumn's Work.

We are officially informed that summer-time is over. Holidays (such holidays as workers have been able to have in present conditions) are coming to an end, and we are settling down, or rather bracing ourselves up, to another winter of strain and stress. Parliament, it is true, does not meet till October 16th, but most of the political and social organisations which are hoping much from the coming session, are already busy with preparatory work. The women's organisations, especially, have a great deal to think about, as it is almost certain that the coming months will bring to their members the full citizenship which will make all their other work so much more fruitful. They are therefore considering what modifications and developments are desirable in their own structure, and what use they will make of their new powers.

The first business of Suffrage Societies, of course, is to see that there is no slip between the cup and the lip. We are not much perturbed by the rumour that the later stages of the Representation of the People Bill may be put off till the reform of the House of Lords has been dealt with. The Government has many reasons for wanting to get the Bill through without delay. A general election, though not desired by anyone, may become inevitable at any moment. But a general election on the old register is now unthinkable. It is therefore absolutely necessary that the Bill should become law as soon as possible. The Bill, moreover, has proved itself far more generally acceptable than previous Reform Bills, both to the House of Commons and the public. It passed its second reading by a majority of 289. In Committee its clauses have either been agreed to without divisions, or have commanded such majorities as 152, 170, 179, 330. (This last the Suffrage Clause!) These figures leave no doubt of the feeling of the House of Commons to the Bill. The attitude of the Press has been equally favourable. The Trade Union Congress has shown quite plainly that organised labour is not disposed to submit to any trifling or delay. The Government have every reason to feel that in expediting the later stages of the Bill they will have the country behind them.

The reform of the House of Lords is a very different matter. It is an extremely controversial question, and to a very large extent a party question. It may possibly be argued that everyone wishes to reform the Upper House, but it can hardly be denied that everyone wishes to reform it in a different way. Some people use the word "reform" in this connection, just as it is used in the expression, "Tariff Reform," to denote a revival and renewal of strength; others will not be satisfied with any "reform" which does not sweep the Second Chamber out of existence. Between these two extremes every shade of opinion can be found. The question is bound to be highly controversial in the House of Commons, and may turn out to be a source of acute controversy between the two houses. The House of Commons will probably want to reform itself and to acquire the fresh strength which it will gain from an extension of the electorate before facing it. The fact that the question has been raised should therefore provide an additional reason for the Government to make good speed with the Representation of the People Bill. The Suffrage Societies, in any case, will be on the watch, and recent pronouncements have shown that they will not watch alone.

If the sure and swift advance of the Bill is our chief concern, our next anxiety is that it shall be as good a Bill as possible, and shall include the improvements that we have been led to hope for. The most important of these is, of course, the extension of the municipal vote to married women. The reasonableness of this amendment has been admitted on all sides, and we have good reason for hoping that it will be incorporated in the Bill.

While we are thinking about the Bill which is to give some of us votes, we are necessarily thinking also about the use we

are to make of those votes when we get them. Such gatherings as the National Council of Women on October 3rd to 5th, its accompanying public meetings, and the conferences which are being arranged by so many political and social organisations, will all be a help in our education as citizens. Every voter that is to be, will be anxious to learn all she can. In old days it was not unusual for women to say and feel that they were not interested in politics. No woman could say so now without shame. In this time of trouble for our country and all the nations of the world, we have learned that "politics" mean our own lives and the lives of those we love, and the things which many of our fellow-citizens have proved that they loved better than life. Every one of us must *needs* be interested in them. We hope that the time for showing that our interest is intelligent is now close at hand.

The State Endowment of Maternity.

Much is being said, and thought, and written at the present time on the subject of the State endowment of maternity. There are of course many reasons why such a scheme should be stirring just now in the minds of women. First and perhaps foremost there is the tremendous probability of coming enfranchisement, with its stimulus to the formation of concrete demands. In addition there is the universal cry for a renewed population in face of war wastage, which has created a favourable atmosphere for any proposal likely to put a premium upon motherhood. Moreover in the existing war-pension allowance system we have an actual working demonstration of the direct payment of mothers in rough proportion to their family needs, or, as Miss Rathbone puts it in a recent publication, "the largest experiment in the State endowment of maternity that the world has ever seen." Finally there is the more obscure incentive born of the present industrial situation and the problem which broods over it of how to adjust the relations of men and women wage-earners when war conditions are relaxed. It is in this connection that the endowment of maternity suggests itself as the only possible condition of equal pay for equal value as between the married man and the unmarried woman. But this aspect of the problem is a technical and far-reaching one, and deserves separate treatment by some more expert contributor to The Common Cause.

Now up to the present it may be said that the opposition to the State endowment of maternity has not unmasked itself. We know little or nothing about either its quality or its quantity. And yet every one of us must realise that a considerable volume of hostility must take shape when once so revolutionary a scheme materialises with an active body of adherents behind it. Obviously for instance, a large number of people will scent danger to the sanctity of family life in a change which cuts away one of its existing economic conditions, *i.e.* the dependence of the woman and children upon the earning power of the man. In the second place it is easy to imagine a large body of Conservative economic opinion opposed to any added burden upon State expenditure or any drastic alteration of the existing distribution of wealth. In addition of course there will be the less rampant hostility of those who stand appalled before the actual administrative difficulties and potential administrative abuses of so stupendous a social experiment. And in the background will loom the old anti-Suffragist instinct working through devious ways to defend what Sir Robert Williams, M.P., describes as the "God-given quality of being the ruling sex."

The Common Cause, and the N.U.W.S.S. which it represents, can of course take no side in the matter; for as things stand at present, such a question as the endowment of maternity could hardly, by the wildest stretch of interpretation, be included among the definite objects for which members of the N.U. have subscribed its funds. Many such members indeed, may eventually be found on the opposing side. Meanwhile, any attempt to crystallise some of the vague advocacy which has been stirring in many minds for the past six months or so, would benefit potential opponents as well as potential advocates. It would at least give the former something concrete to attack. It would at most demonstrate that the innovators were up against an insoluble problem.

I venture to appeal therefore, to any readers of The Common Cause who may happen to be interested in the possibilities of the State endowment of maternity to co-operate in a discussion, not merely of the pressing need for such a step, but of practical concrete proposals for its realisation.

So far the most definite proposal that has been made in connection with the State endowment of maternity is the scheme of mothers' pensions advocated in this country by Judge Neil of Chicago, and recently described in The Common Cause by Miss Maude Royden. Here we have not only a definite scheme, but one whose operation and results can be studied from actual application in the U.S.A. But this is an exceedingly mild and tentative form of State endowment. After all the principle which lies at the back of the endowment of maternity may be summed up as the payment of a woman for certain vital services to society by her adequate maintenance during the performance of those services. If we regard it as the payment of services, the child-bearing wife of a duke should receive her weekly sum per child per week, just as naturally as the millionaire ranker receives his shilling a day. The fact that the duchess is performing a service to society, possibly no less valuable than that of her charwoman, should not be obscured by the fact that her husband is performing the infinitely more highly valued service of owning a tract of land in Central London. But if we press our principle with ruthless logic we find ourselves acting illogically in another direction; we are, in fact, removing money from the pockets of the tax-payers (of whom a mere fraction are of course liable for super-tax) and transferring it to pockets which are already full to bursting point. The system might redound to the dignity of motherhood, but it would be an uneconomic system none the less.

At the other end of the scale we might place mothers' pensions, administered as Lady Selborne suggests, through the Poor Law. Here indeed, the scheme seems to narrow itself down to something more like an emergency relief measure than the acceptance of a far-reaching new social and economic principle. Indeed, more than one person has said to the present writer, on first superficial view of the plan, "Isn't this Speenhamland over again?"

Now Speenhamland, it may be explained for the benefit of those unacquainted with the lurid past of our English Poor Law, is the name given to a particularly free and indiscriminate form of outdoor relief devised by the Berkshire magistrates in extraordinary meeting at the Pelican Inn in the village of Speenhamland, during the summer of 1795. It was frankly a panic measure, hammered out by a nervous squirearchy, sitting under the shadow of the French Revolution, to stave off the disaffection of a dispossessed and famine-stricken peasantry. In practice, the Speenhamland system worked like this:—a bare sum, varying with the price of bread, was recognised as necessary for the subsistence of a man and his family, a sum which increased by a definite amount per head for every child. In so far as the wages earned by that man fell short of this recognised sum, they were made good, with or without irksome conditions, by the Poor Law authorities. In the first place, the system acted as a direct incentive to the payment of starvation wages, in the second place it put a premium on the bearing of large families dependent for maintenance upon the unfortunate ratepayers.

Now the Speenhamland system of poor relief was intended as a temporary expedient to tide over the lean years of the seventeen-nineties. In practice it lasted for something like forty years; spreading from parish to parish until the greater part of England was infected with a system under which the only material difference between the able-bodied pauper and the able-bodied worker was that the former obtained his income without working for it, and moreover obtained an income which increased automatically with the increase of his family. The revolt against Speenhamland came in 1832; it was a revolt inspired largely by the political economists of the time, who saw in the iniquities of an unscientific Poor Law an active cause of what they regarded as over-population; and by that time Speenhamland pauperism had become one of the mightiest vested interests of the day, with a considerable force of sentimental conservatism at the back of it. However the evils exposed in black and white by the Royal Commission which investigated the whole question between 1832 and 1834, were startling enough to precipitate a drastic reform, with the result that three Poor Law Commissioners were appointed with almost autocratic powers and the task of re-casting the existing Poor Law system from top to bottom on certain broad new principles. The most important of these was the principle of deterrence—"less eligibility" to use a clumsy historical phrase. The principle of "less eligibility" laid it down that relief should only be granted to able-bodied persons under such conditions of discipline and hard labour as should render their position a shade more unpleasant than that of the poorest independent worker. The Speenhamland paupers put up a stiff fight for their liberties, but in the end an inexorable Whig Administration bore down resistance, and within ten years or so of the Commissioners' appointment, every able-bodied

pauper in the country had been either forced into a workhouse or driven back upon his or her own resources.

The Poor Law of the 1834 Commissioners represents the revolt of nineteenth-century political economy and administrative reform against indiscriminate out-door relief. It is essentially a deterrent Poor Law and a palliative Poor Law; and in its broad essentials it is the Poor Law of to-day.

I ask pardon of readers for this apparently irrelevant plunge into the origins of our present Poor Law system; my excuse is that it may possibly help us to answer two questions connected with the matter in hand. First, has the proposed scheme for mothers' pensions anything in common with the old Speenhamland system? Second, would it be advisable, in the interests of economy and administrative convenience, to entrust such a scheme to the Poor Law authorities? Mary Stocks.

(To be continued.)

A Russian Experience.

With the Millicent Fawcett Units.

How happy are those souls who can carry with them such memories of the beauty of the places in which their work lies in war-time that the horrors are often overshadowed. That was the feeling in my mind when interviewing Sister ——— on her return from Russia last week. Her thoughts were full of Z———, where the work of our hospital has been carried on. "Such a beautiful place," she said, "the air laden with the scent of fruit, and the cherry trees growing even all over the soldiers' graves. The great sunflowers, too, whole fields of gold; such pert-looking flowers, holding up their heads as though they knew they were growing for a definite purpose, as, indeed, they were, the sunflower seeds being gathered for winter consumption." Yet close by the awful catastrophe of T——— was taking place, and hurried orders came through to evacuate the hospital on July 19th. The unit worked at lightning speed, and they had the great satisfaction of knowing that all the excellent supply of drugs, &c., just received from England after many weary months of waiting was safely packed and on the train. All these medical stores were saved from falling into German hands, and were taken over by the Russian Medical Service. While waiting for evacuation, an impromptu dressing-station was set up at Z———, and the unit dressed the wounds of the men coming from T——— and the surrounding country.

At last they were told to take their seats in the train which now carried all their equipment. They sat in the train for twenty-four hours, and then it started without warning! There were forty-odd trains in front of them, and they trundled along for sixteen days doing about eighty miles. Having only been able to provide themselves with five days' food, it was a serious problem to sustain themselves. At the stations one of the Sisters would slip out and get boiling-water to make themselves tea, and on the road stray chickens were pursued and *sometimes* captured. The Cossacks apparently were more successful in this, as they speared these flying chickens in a most wonderful manner. During all this time the unit were only twenty-four hours in advance of the Germans. After a very trying journey they eventually reached Petrograd and joined up with the other units.

Again the prevailing characteristic of Sister ——— peeped out. "What did you think of Petrograd?" I asked. "The thing that struck me most," she said, "was the apparent gaiety of the city. The streets were full of little kiosks so bright and gay, painted in yellow and blue, and red, white, and blue. They have been erected since the Revolution, and are used by the street orators, &c. Some of the houses present a peculiar appearance; they are pitted with bullet-holes, as the men in the upper storeys fired down and the men in the streets fired up at them."

Asked as to food conditions in Petrograd, she said that everything was very dear, and some things—vegetables, for instance—very scarce. They paid 6 roubles for a cutlet, 5 roubles for peas (tinned); butter, 10 roubles a pound. Bread is only obtainable by ticket, and each person is allowed a quarter of a pound of butter per week.

Sister ——— came in contact with some of the women of the famous Battalion of Death, and could not speak too highly of them. "Such charming women," she said, "so well conducted, with such dignity of manner, and their uniforms so well kept. Indeed, they set a great example, both by their courage and general behaviour, to the men soldiers. They are recruited principally from the peasant class. It is sad to think that a whole regiment of these women is said to have been wiped out."

M. M. L.

THE WOMEN'S ARMY AUXILIARY CORPS.

Ten thousand women will be needed by the War Office before the end of October, both for home and oversea service, and it is expected that after that date an additional 10,000 will be required each month. The chief need at present is for domestic workers. Of these, 5,000 are wanted at once, and there is also a large demand for cooks for officers' messes, men's messes, and for the women themselves, and for waitresses; 3,000 shorthand typists and clerks are wanted immediately. For transport work, experienced driver-mechanics are urgently needed; they must be able to undertake minor repairs and clean and grease cars, and must have had at least six months' experience in commercial driving.

Recruiting will be carried on locally, and recruits will come before local boards of selection, the areas being the nine divisional areas of the Employment Department. Each area will have a local woman recruiting controller, whose headquarters will be near the divisional office of the Employment Department, namely at London, Birmingham, Cardiff, Warrington, Edinburgh, Bristol, Doncaster, Newcastle, and Dublin. Each selection board will consist of the recruiting controller, the woman organising officer of the Employment Department, a local administrator of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, and a technical officer. Applicants will be required to attend the selection boards nearest their place of residence, and those who are passed will be examined by a medical board composed of women doctors. In each division the War Office has established a recruiting hostel, to which enrolled women will be sent in the first instance before allocation to their unit, and a special receiving hostel for women for oversea service has been established at Hastings.

The Employment Department has undertaken all responsibility with regard to the transport of women to the place of interview and to the receiving hostel, and free railway warrants will be issued.

A large number of women administrators are being appointed (on an average, one to every fifty of the rank and file). They will have authority similar to that held by commissioned officers, and their principal duty will be to see that the girls of whom they are in charge are made comfortable, to encourage *esprit de corps* among them and maintain discipline. The rates of pay, both for officers and rank and file, have already appeared in The Common Cause.

Recruits may sign on for both home and foreign service, or for home service only. They must be prepared to go wherever they are sent, and to stick to their work steadily, whatever the conditions may be like. The type of woman who is inclined to throw up her job lightly and easily grows restless and discontented, is not wanted. Great pains are being taken to secure good conditions for the Corps, and Miss Thompson, Area Controller for London, who has recently taken a draft to France, reports that she is delighted with the arrangements that have been made for them, including the promotion of social evenings. Women employed in V.A.D. military hospitals and Red Cross hospitals are not eligible without a letter from the head of their department. A similar barrier to enlistment is put upon those in Government service, munition work, work in a controlled establishment, school teachers, municipal employees, and women employed full time in agriculture.

WOMEN AND THE EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.

Local Advisory Committees are being created with a view to introducing some form of local organisation into the machinery of the Employment Exchanges, and bringing them into closer touch with employers and workers in all localities. It is intended that there shall be at least one woman on each committee.

Arrangements will be made for people applying to the Exchange who require special guidance and advice to be interviewed in private by small sub-committees, on which members of the committee possessing special knowledge of the trade in questions will be included.

The special problems arising in connection with the employment of women will be dealt with, in the first instance, by the women's sub-committee, and the preparation of lists of suitable lodgings, particularly for women workers, will be among the items of work which the committee will, in appropriate cases, be called upon to perform. It is to be hoped that local committees which have only one or two women members will co-opt additional women to serve on the women's sub-committee.

As a result of the special steps which have been taken to assist in obtaining women for work on the land, over forty Special Advisory Committees on Women's War Employment have been set up in certain centres in connection with the Exchanges, and have given valuable assistance in dealing with the problems that arise as regards the migration of women workers and the recruiting of women workers for work of national importance.

FARM SCHOLARSHIPS FOR WOMEN.

The Food Production Department of the Board of Agriculture are offering fifteen scholarships, tenable at the South-Eastern Agricultural College, Wye, Kent, for a combined practical and theoretical course in farming of about twenty-two weeks' duration which will begin early in October. The scholarships will cover the cost of maintenance and tuition. Application must be made not later than September 24th.

Preference will be given to canditates over twenty-one years of age who will be suitable for the positions of forewomen, under-bailiffs, instructresses, &c. Only women who have considerable practical experience on the land and will undertake agricultural work for the duration of the war will be eligible. Further information and forms of application can be procured from the Food Production Department, 72, Victoria-street, S.W. 1.

THE WOMEN'S POLICE SERVICE.

Recruits are wanted for the Women Police Service, to undertake duties in munition factories. They will be trained for three weeks, during which time they will be paid 25s. a week, and afterwards the weekly pay will be £2.

Nationality of Australian Married Women.

An interesting situation has arisen in Australia with regard to the position of the Australian-born woman married to an alien, which indicates that the Government there is interpreting the law as giving the Australian woman certain rights of nationality independently of her husband.

The new points are brought out in *The Woman Voter*, the organ of the Women's Political Association, which has consistently opposed the limitation of the independent right of the married woman to her nationality. To make these clear, it has to be remembered that the Australian Parliament, under the Act of the Imperial British Parliament, by which the Commonwealth was established, has the right to pass legislation dealing with the question of naturalisation of aliens. In virtue of the powers so conferred, it passed the Naturalisation Act of 1903, of which Miss Rose Scott, of New South Wales, wrote to the International Council of Women in 1905 as follows: "I happened to be in Melbourne when the Naturalisation Act was being discussed in the Federal Parliament. I went with Miss Vida Goldstein to the Parliament one night—we made it our business to see all the members we could about the matter. We went to the Labour Party's room, we saw the Prime Minister, we protested against a woman's nationality being dependent upon that of her husband; we found much sympathy; and the Act was passed on the broad basis—far better than any of the States had it—so now, in this respect, we are a very free people."

In 1914 the British Parliament passed the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act, which contained a proviso that Part II., dealing with the general question of nationality and naturalisation, should not be applicable to Australia, unless adopted by the Commonwealth Parliament. There was no corresponding proviso with regard to Part III. of the Act, which contained the provisions with reference to married women. It would thus appear to have been the intention of the British Parliament that this Part III. of the Act was to be applicable in Australia without a similar ratification, were it not that such an interpretation would be inconsistent with the powers to legislate for naturalisation and aliens conferred on Australia by the Commonwealth Act.

It is the interpretation of the Act in these two different ways that has brought about the interesting situation in Australia. *The Woman Voter* reports that "a protest has been made against the Government of Australia introducing regulations under the War Precautions Act to compel a natural-born British woman married to an alien to obtain exemption from the regulations which require persons of enemy origin to transfer their shares in Australian companies to the Public Trustee if she wished to transfer her shares to any other person than the Public Trustee. The Attorney General (Mr. Mahon) quoted the British law, that a married woman is deemed to be the subject of the country of which her husband is for the time being a subject," as if it were applicable. *The Woman Voter* goes on: "Later, Mr. Mahon, apparently having given further consideration to the matter, said that the regulations did not touch any Australian-born man or woman. Although we resent this being applied to other British women, the importance of Mr. Mahon's statement cannot be over-emphasised as far as Australian women are concerned, for it entirely cuts the ground from under the feet of the Prime Minister (Mr. Hughes), who, when Attorney General, ruled that the Imperial Naturalisation Act, which makes a wife a mere appendage to her husband, applied to Australian women, in spite of Parliament having declared the contrary in the Commonwealth Naturalisation Act of 1903. If Australian women cannot be deprived of their property under the regulations referred to, then the Imperial Naturalisation Act cannot touch married Australian women in any respect. The question will be gone fully into by the Women's Political Association with the Commonwealth Government, and with the Members of Parliament, when the Naturalisation Act comes up for amendment, with the object of bringing it into line with the recently amended Imperial Naturalisation Act."

The National Union of Women Workers of Great Britain and Ireland has also taken up the subject as it affects the British Empire, and is organising a Memorial to the next Imperial Conference to be signed by prominent women's organisations throughout the Empire, urging that a British woman should have the right to retain her nationality on marriage with an alien, and that women shall be given the same choice of nationality as men. The Memorial has already been signed by twenty British Societies, and is now in course of circulation throughout the Empire.

CHRYSTAL MACMILLAN.

HONEY AS A NATIONAL FOOD.

The nation has already made a notable increase in the production of food in our rural districts, particularly in potatoes, root crops, and oats. This autumn we have an abundance of apples, blackberries, and plums, and if sugar had not become a luxury to come by, we should all have plenty of jam for the coming winter. Why should not honey take the place of sugar, and become a staple commodity of British production?

Until 350 years ago, the population of Great Britain and Ireland knew nothing of sugar, except as a scarce and expensive luxury imported for the tables of the rich. At that time British honey was produced in such quantities that not only Queen Bess "sat in the parlour eating bread and honey," but three millions of her subjects were able to sweeten their pies and puddings, stews and dumplings, cakes and fritters, jams and possets, without ever looking overseas for sugar from the plantations.

In pharmacy, honey was the commonest ingredient with which powdered medicines were prepared, and mead, a fermented preparation of honey, water, and spices, was a popular beverage.

It should not be impossible nowadays for at least three millions of King George's subjects to be able to sweeten their food with British honey. The great tracts of moorland in the North and West, covered with bell-heather and ling, can again produce the dark rich heather-honey in every moorland village; the clover and bean fields and pasturelands of the Midlands and Southern counties are still rich in honey, and the gardens, both public and private, which encircle every modern town, will furnish food for more bees than ever were in England.

Perhaps the Mayors and Corporations of England and the Provosts of Scotland will assist the allotment-holders of the towns and villages to obtain hives of cheap and simple construction, and will offer prizes for the best honey; quality and quantity being taken into account. At least one experienced bee master should be appointed on the staff of park-keepers in each district, to foster the bees, to promote the cultivation of flowers rich in honey, and to sell the hives, swarms of bees, and honey to the public. Soldiers and sailors who are discharged from the Services could be taught to construct these hives, to learn the care of bees, and to become real bee masters in our towns and villages.

A national industry which would develop naturally on the great moors, in the countryside, and amongst the gardens of the people, and supply the children with the sweet food they all crave and need, would be a national blessing. No great outlay of capital is necessary, no factories, nor the machinery of the sugar refinery. The County Councils can provide lectures in the villages on bee-keeping; the Parish Councils can appoint men and women as bee masters for each country district, to supply hives, to advise as to where they should be placed, and how to avoid the pests and diseases which affect bees. Is there no Pasteur amongst us who, by insight and industry can deliver our bees from the Isle of Wight disease?

Five hundred years before the Christian Era a writer belonging to the healthiest and most enduring of races thus describes the child's ideal diet: "Butter and honey shall he eat that he may know how to refuse the evil and choose the good."

ELLEN M. MCDOUGALL.

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MORE CONGRATULATIONS FROM OVERSEAS.

The following messages have been received by Mrs. Fawcett from South Africa: "On behalf of the W.C.T.U. of South Africa, allow me to offer you congratulations. It must be an immense satisfaction to you to see how much has been attained since you began to work for the abolition of sex distinctions. The matter of the Vote cannot now long be delayed; even here we have in the last few weeks obtained the right to sit on Municipal Councils, a right women have already in the Transvaal, Natal, and we follow with eager interest the progress of the Representation of the People Bill. For once civilisation has got a lift on a powder cart.

Julia F. Solly.

"At an open meeting of the Women's Enfranchisement League of the Cape Province, the following resolution was unanimously passed; our President, Mrs. Burton (wife of the Minister of Railways) in the chair: 'That this meeting congratulates Mrs. Henry Fawcett on celebrating her seventieth birthday and trusts that she may live long enough to see women on all representative bodies.' Mrs. Solly, our hon. treasurer, gave a brief account of your splendid record in work for women, which indeed was partly known to most of us. In sending on this small testimony of our esteem and admiration, I venture to express my own pleasure at being permitted to address you."

Nellie Janisch.

JOINT COMMITTEE OF IRISH WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

The following letter has been sent by the Joint Committee of Irish Suffrage Societies to the Chief Secretary for Ireland:—

"Dear Sir,—I am directed by the Joint Committee of Irish Suffrage Societies, representing the Belfast Suffrage Society, the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association, the Church League for Woman Suffrage, the Irish Catholic Women's Suffrage Association, the Irishwomen's Reform League, and the Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation, to ask you to receive a deputation with regard to the Food Committees. You will remember that in England it is enacted that at least one member of every local Food Committee shall be a woman. We wish to urge the importance of applying the same rule in this country, and we ask that a woman be co-opted on the Central Committee, which consists at present only of men. The experience of women in the matter of buying and preparing food is of great value in dealing with questions of food control, and it is most undesirable that the community should be prevented from utilising their services.—Yours faithfully,

"M. Gwynn, Hon. Sec. Joint Committee Irish Suffrage Societies."

The Joint Committee has been informed the Irish Convention has not power to co-opt members, this being the business of the Government. As the Government was approached by the Joint Committee at a much earlier stage, it seems impossible to make any further attempt to secure inclusion of women in the Convention. The question of the future government of the country will therefore be decided without reference to the women.

CONTINUATION CLASSES FOR YOUNG WORKERS.

The Institutes providing evening education in technical and trade subjects, commercial subjects, including modern languages, art and domestic subjects, under the L.C.C., are now open for registration for the classes that will begin next Monday. Interest in these classes is growing. The enrolment and attendance of students between the age of fourteen and eighteen was better last winter than ever before, and many employers have encouraged their workpeople to make the fullest use of the facilities afforded some of them accepting the offer of the L.C.C. to hold classes on their own premises, in their own time, or partly in their own time, if a sufficient number of pupils enrol.

Classes are always arranged with regard to the trade in which the student will be employed. In engineering firms, for instance, the students have classes dealing with metals, motors, drawing, science, and mathematics. In the dressmaking trade it is one of the conditions of employment that the girls get time off to go to the trade schools in Queen's Square and Barratt-street, while the London General Omnibus Company send the boys from their garages to certain of the neighbouring institutes. Where classes are attended by boys under eighteen, English is compulsory. Girls, however, have the privilege of learning cookery alone if they wish it.

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LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Subscriptions are still urgently needed, and should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Laurie, Red House, Greenock. Cheques to be crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland." Subscriptions for the London Units to be sent to the Right Hon. Viscountess Cowdray or the Hon. Mrs. B. M. Graves, Hon. Treasurers, 66, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W. 1.

	£	s.	d.
Forward as per list to September 3rd, 1917	239,141	19	5
Further donations received to September 13th, 1917:—			
Mrs. Paynter	1	0	0
*Haddington W.S.S., per Miss H. B. Paterson, Treas., to continue "Haddington" and "Lamp of Lothian" beds for 6 months each (Royaumont) (£50); (£6 9s. for General Funds, £1 5s. for propaganda work)...	57	14	0
*Dock Staff, the Leith, Hull and Hamburg Steam Packet Co., Ltd., per D. McDonald, Esq.	2	10	0
*Innerleithen and Walkerburn W.S.S., per Miss Hilda Ballantyne, Hon. Treas.: Proceeds of a Garden Fête and Sale of Work, held in support of the "Innerleithen and Walkerburn" beds, in Salonica and Ajaccio ...	73	1	11
Miss Paul	20	0	0
*Sunderland W.S.S., per Mrs. Mundella, Hon. Treas., August Collections: Workmen Messrs. R. A. Bartram & Sons, Ltd. (£9 6s. 2d.); Collected at 4, Belford Road: Mrs. Common (10s.), Miss J. Common (10s.), Mrs. Eliot Common (10s.), Mrs. Walford Common (5s.), Mrs. Garcia (2s. 6d.), A Friend (1s.); Household Economies, 4, Belford Road (6s.); Collected by Mrs. Mundella: Mrs. A. Johnson (10s.), Mrs. Patrick (5s.), Mrs. Eyres (5s.), Miss A. Hedley (2s. 6d.), S. H. C. (2s. 6d.), Mrs. Mundella (2s.), Mrs. A. Ritson (2s.), Nurse Hinch (1s.), Mrs. Oliver (1s.), S. G. (4s.)	13	5	8
*Per Miss Kathleen Burke, per the Manager, Canadian Bank of Commerce, London (Dr. Inglis' Unit, Russia)	800	0	0
Miss I. Kellie	1	0	0
Miss Jean Wilson	1	0	0
*Alexander Cuthbert, Esq. ...	1	0	0
*Employees and Staff Messrs. John Poynters, Sons & Macdonald	13	10	0
*Miss Fairbairn	1	10	0
*Miss M. Finnie, to continue "Archibald Finnie" bed, Royaumont, for 2nd year ...	50	0	0
Women's Co-op. Guild, Woking, per Miss L. A. Hudson ...	1	10	0
*Mrs. Tiffany, New York (monthly donation)	5	4	2
*Miss Jessie G. Goodrich ...		5	0
Mrs. Featherstone, per Mrs. Maclagan, Sec. Rotherham W.S.S.		5	0
*Mrs. Davidson, to continue the "6th Gordon Highlanders" bed (in memory of the Territorial Regt. who have fallen) (American Unit)...	50	0	0
Miss J. C. Thomson	1	0	0
*Miss Mair	1	0	0
*Staff of Bruntsfield Public School, per the Headmaster...		15	0
Miss Mackay	2	0	0
*Mrs. Tod, to continue "In Memory of Lenore, Glenesk" bed, Royaumont, 6 months ...	25	0	0
*Miss Catherine Courtauld ...	100	0	0
*Miss S. R. Courtauld	100	0	0
Mrs. H. M. Anderson, per Miss Irene Curwen, Organiser S.W.H., Liverpool		5	0
*Miss Elizabeth Rae (monthly donation)		2	6
*Mrs. Hay		10	0
*Alex. Cupples, Esq.	2	0	0
*Staff, Acct.'s Office, G.P.O., Edinburgh, per A. P. Macmanus, Esq., Cashier (6th contribution)	2	6	0
Miss J. Edgar		2	0
*G. and S.-W. Loco. Co., Kilmarnock, per Robt. Noble, Esq., per Mrs. Robertson (9th contribution)	7	17	10
*Employees Bridgeness and Grange Collieries, per the General Manager	8	9	11
Miss Mabel Taylor...		10	0
*"Four Maids of Millearne," per Miss Isa H. Walker ...		12	6
*Per Miss Bury: Employees Messrs. Fiddes & Co., per Williamina Smith (7th instal. for "Aberdeen Workers'" bed, American Unit		9	0
	£240,487	15	0

* Denotes further donations.

Further List of Beds Named.

Name of Bed.	*Donor.*
"Haddington" (Royaumont, further 6 months)	Haddington W.S.S., per Miss H. B. Paterson, Treas.
"Lamp of Lothian" (Royaumont, further 6 months)	Haddington W.S.S., per Miss H. B. Paterson, Treas.
"Innerleithen and Walkerburn" (two beds) (Salonica and Ajaccio, 6 months each)	Innerleithen and Walkerburn W.S.S., per Miss Ballantyne, Hon. Treas.
"Archibald Finnie" (Royaumont, further 1 year)	Miss M. Finnie, Kilmarnock.
"6th Gordon Highlanders" (In Memory of the Territorial Regt. who have fallen) (American Unit, further 1 year)	Mrs. Davidson, York House, Cullen.
"In Memory of Leonore, Glenesk" (Royaumont, further 6 months) ...	Mrs. Tod, "Glenesk," Polton.

London Units.

News has been received that Dr. Chesney and her detachment of eight, who in July set up a dressing-station on the Roumanian Front, rejoined Dr. Inglis's Unit after a month's splendid work under fire and under very hard conditions. The whole Unit, consisting of Hospitals A and B, and the Motor Transport section, received orders to rejoin the Serbian division, and has arrived in Odessa, where Dr. Inglis was awaiting orders when this news was received in London.

In the London Ward at Royaumont a second unnamed bed is now to be known as "The Star and Garter Bed, Number Two," in gratitude to the British Women's Hospital for their magnificent donation to the London Committee.

Two other unnamed beds are to be called "Egypt Beds One and Two," in gratitude to those subscribers to the "Archæological Society of Great Britain for Egyptian Studies," who have generously contributed to the funds of the London Committee of the Scottish Women's Hospitals. Members of that Society have been led to extend their interest during the war to the Scottish women through their honorary secretary, Mrs. Flinders Petrie, who is also the untiring honorary secretary of the London Committee.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

Items of Interest.

At the food production branch of the Board of Agriculture, on Wednesday, Mrs. Alfred Lyttelton spoke of the great success of the work of the 200,000 women now employed upon the land, and appealed for a little more social life for them. People living in the country could, she said, do a great deal to make the lives of these women less dull, at very little cost or trouble to themselves. Land women are often very much isolated, and it is very lonely for them in the winter evenings. People with pleasant country houses might offer the land-army women the use of the sitting-room, with possibly a piano. Even one day a week would mean much to them.

The *Nursing Mirror* announces that war nurses going on holiday are to be allowed a third-class return ticket on payment of the present-day third-class single fare. The Railway Executive Committee state that the concession will be available for all "women nurses, probationers, and masseuses, whose whole time is employed at hospitals, convalescent homes, etc., recognised by the military authorities, but yet not under military control." The nurses must travel in uniform, and must obtain their vouchers from the matron or medical officer in charge of the institution where they are working. Such a voucher can only be issued to each nurse once in every six months. The Railway Executive Committee guard their position by the proviso that these facilities may be withdrawn at any time.

Mrs. Pember Reeves has put forward an interesting scheme for providing "helps" for working-class mothers, to enable them to obtain a little leisure away from their family. She holds that the burden of cooking, washing, mending for, in many cases, six or seven young children is too great to be borne constantly and continuously by one woman, whatever her walk in life. New housing schemes when they materialise will make things better and healthier for the children, but though they may lighten the day's work for the mother, it will still be an all-day job, for the seven days of the week, with no holidays and with the dreary monotony of unrelieved care and anxiety.

An Indian official *communiqué* published in *The Pioneer Mail*, gives two very touching instances of patriotism among Indian peasant women that have been brought to the notice of the Government.

A poor Jat widow of Bisara Village, in the Aligarh district, brought her only son, aged sixteen, to the recruiting officer, who rejected him as being too young. So she waited a year, until he attained military age, and then brought him again, telling him on his departure that he would only be a source of pride and pleasure to her when he did his best to defeat the cause of the enemy, though at the sacrifice of his life, in the service of the King.

In the other case, a Jat of Iglas tahsil enlisted in the 35th Sikhs. The next day his wife appeared in man's clothing, and applied to be enlisted in the same regiment. When her sex was detected she said she could not bear to be left alone, and wanted to join the Army and fight with her husband. The recruiting officer told her that this was impossible, and offered to release her husband, but the wife said she would consider it a sin to stand in her husband's light and prevent him fighting for the just cause. She had imbibed the spirit of loyalty from the Gita.

Among the hardships which fall to the lot of the discharged soldier is the inadequate allowance made for buying "civvy" clothes when he hands in his uniform. This will only provide a second-hand suit, and a shabby one at that. Houndsditch appears to be doing a thriving trade in discarded hats and "reach-me-downs," and the discharged soldier thus fitted out is handicapped in his search for work by his shabby appearance. The more fortunate may have good second-hand suits given to them, but it is iniquitous that those who have fought for us should have to depend upon charity for a decent outfit.

Mr John Hodge, the Minister of Pensions, has announced his intention of starting an experimental laboratory, where the greatest skill and inventive faculty will be employed to get the best possible artificial limbs for the men maimed in the war. He has also urged that public opinion shall be brought to bear upon employers who decline to pay disabled men full wages, even though they are capable of doing a full day's work, on the ground that they are receiving a pension.

For the first time since Dr. Fort Newton's absence in America, the City Temple was crowded to overflowing last Sunday evening, when Miss Maude Royden preached. She will preach again on September 23rd and 30th, at the 7 p.m. service. Next Sunday evening she will conduct a christening service.

The University of Geneva have decided to institute a special course open both to men and women for training in evangelical studies and religious work. It is understood that in doing so they have specially considered the importance of giving a larger scope to the religious ministry of women, and the "*Mouvement Féministe*," of Geneva believes that this is a step forward in the rapidly growing movement for Women Ministers in the Protestant Churches of France and Switzerland.

In the *Gazette del Popolo*, Signor Beviane pays a high tribute to the work of British women. Speaking of what has been accomplished in Great Britain during the past year, he says:—

"These miraculous results are possible through the unlimited and heroic co-operation of women, which is without example among any people at war. Women work in offices, in camps, with the army, in millions, with a determination and consciousness of the gravity of the hour that arouses the pride and gratitude of the entire nation. British women, fighting with the discipline of soldiers, are conquering in a superb way their electoral rights."

According to a report from Constantinople, the Turkish Government now allow women to study medicine, and have also permitted commercial schools to admit female students.

In some districts, among others at Belsay Castle, women are being trained as rabbit catchers, except for the born poacher, this must be very unpleasant work, but it is extremely useful. Not only are rabbits an important addition to our meat supply, but they do a great deal of harm to the countryside if allowed to multiply unchecked.

During his inspection of shipbuilding yards and munition works in the West of Scotland, the King presented Miss Lizzie Robinson, of Govan, with the medal of the British Empire for perfect attendance at the munition works at which she was engaged.

But not all women are capable of similar regularity. Much attention has been given in the Press during the last few weeks to the question of the length of hours worked by women, and a great deal of evidence has been brought forward to show that a reduction of excessive hours does not lead to reduction in output. The twelve-hour day is still the general rule, and in addition to this many women have domestic duties, with the result that they suffer in health, and sometimes break down altogether.

The Queen has been visiting factories in Coventry, and inspecting the various arrangements for the welfare of women and girls made in connection with them, showing great interest in the working of the canteens. One firm which is employing more and more women, is now engaged on a very interesting experiment in regard to housing. Cottages are being erected for families, but instead of the hostel system a number of small residential clubs for girls are made. Each of these accommodates from thirty-five to forty inmates. They have a good dining-room, prettily and artistically furnished, and bed-rooms, each with three beds. All the girls from a county are grouped together, and thus there is, a Devon Club, a Cumberland Club, and so on. The Queen inspected one of the houses, and heard of the various arrangements by which meals are sent down from the firm's canteens, and for recreations and amusements.

What Some of our Societies are Doing.

Huddersfield W.S.S

This society held a Lamp Day on September 8th, when £180 was realised. The proceeds are to be divided between the Scottish Women's Hospitals and the Millicent Fawcett Russian Hospitals and for material for hospital requirements, to be made up by the working party. Nurse Goodwin, from the Huddersfield War Hospital Operating Theatre, is going to Royaumont at the end of this month. She has been here for two years, and is a most capable and devoted nurse.

Forthcoming Meetings.

SEPTEMBER 20.

Rochester Row—Speakers: Miss Margaret Jones, Miss Kelley 6 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 21.

Clapham — Licensed Vehicle Workers—Speaker: Mrs. Corbett Fisher

SEPTEMBER 24.

Birmingham—Infant Welfare Centre, Solihull—Miss J. Lloyd. 3.0 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 26.

Bristol—Working Party at 40, Park Street. 3—5 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 27.

Harrow—Speaker: Miss Meredith 4 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 28.

Barnsley—The Miners' Hall—Lantern Lecture by the Hon. Evelina Haverfield. 8.0 p.m.

Coming Events.

The National Union of Women Workers will meet in council on October 3rd, 4th, and 5th, at the Y.M.C.A. Hall, Tottenham Court Road, W.C., and besides dealing with its own constitution will consider some of the great public questions which have a special interest for women.

A course of lectures on "Some of the Newer Ideals in Education" will be held at 11, Tavistock Square, London, W.C. 1, on Tuesday evenings during October, November, and December.

A very interesting series of lectures on social and economic questions has been arranged for the autumn session of the London School of Economics and Political Science, Clare Market, Portugal Street, Kingsway, W.C. 2.

The seventh annual Exhibition of Arts and Handicrafts, organised by *The Englishwoman*, will be held at the Central Hall, Westminster, from November 14th to 24th.

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If you have a want of any description, do not fail to make it known through the advertisement columns of our paper. We are constantly receiving letters of thanks from our readers. Herewith are some extracts:—

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BRITISH DOMINIONS WOMAN SUFFRAGE UNION. —Lectures, 1917-1918. At Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn. Woman and Revolution. Two Centuries of European History. With special reference to economic problems. Lecturer: Margaret Hodge. First lecture, Monday, October 1st, at 3 p.m. Tickets for Part I. (ten lectures), 5s.—From the Lecture Secretary, Minerva Café.

TO ARTS AND CRAFTS WORKERS.

There are still a few vacant Stalls for "THE ENGLISHWOMAN" EXHIBITION, to be held in November, at the Central Hall, Westminster.—For particulars, apply to the Secretary, 11, Haymarket, S.W. 1.

POSITIONS VACANT.

URGENTLY WANTED, voluntary worker as doorkeeper and messenger at the offices of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, 66, Victoria-st. Hours, 11—5 (except Saturdays, 11—1). No one under 16 should apply

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£50 PRIZE.—Send postage (twopence) for particulars and copy of "How to Make Money With Your Pen" (learn to earn by writing) to Craven Press, 32, Craven-st., Strand, London.

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FALSE TEETH BOUGHT.—Cash or offer by return Before selling, make sure of their value by writing for free booklet, which explains very clearly the value of any artificial teeth.—E. Lewis, 29, London-st., Southport, Lancs.

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